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AUTHOR	Flores-Gonzalez, Nilda
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ABSTRACT

Based on a year-long study and in-depth interviews with Latino high school students, this book focuses on why some develop a "school kid" identity that enables them to succeed in school, while others develop a "street kid" identity and drop out. Interviews were conducted with approximately 10 "stayers," 10 "leavers," and 10 "returners." The book describes the socio-psychological dimensions of student identity development and the effects school practices have on them. The chapters are: (1) "Perspectives on Latino High School Drop-Out"; (2) "Patterns of Identity Differentiation"; (3) "Foundations of School and Street Identities: The Elementary School Years"; (4) "Dealing with School Stigma: 'I Guess One Reason Why I Stayed in this School Is To Show People'"; (5) "Peer Cultures and Self-Image"; (6) "Finding a Safe Niche"; (7) "From School Kids to Graduates"; (8) "From Street Kids to Drop-outs"; (9) "(In) Between School Kids and Street Kids"; and (10) "Creating School Kids and Effective Schools." One appendix describes conducting the study, and the other contains student data. (Contains 118 references.) (SLD)

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